

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32(CANCELED).

33(Currently Amended). The A purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising according to claim 1 which comprises:

(i) a nucleic acid sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13;

(ii) a nucleic acid sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13,

wherein T ~~can also be~~ is U; or

~~(ii)~~(iii) a nucleic acid sequences sequence 100% complementary to (i) or (ii); preferably complementary to the full nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13;

(iii) a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid of (i) or (ii) and preferably having at least 18 nucleotides; or

(iv) a nucleic acid molecule differing from any of the nucleic acids of (i) to (iii) in codon sequences due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Claims 34-46(CANCELED).

47(New). A nucleic acid molecule of claim 33 which differs from any of the nucleic acid sequences of (i) to (iii) in codon sequences due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

48(New). A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33.

49(New). A host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33.

50(New). A probe comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33.

51(New). A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.

52(New). A method for preparing a protein encoded by a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33 comprising:

- (a) transferring a vector of claim 48 into a host cell;
- (b) selecting transformed host cells from untransformed host cells;
- (c) culturing a selected transformed host cell under conditions which allow expression of said protein; and
- (d) isolating said protein.

53(New). A probe comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

54(New). An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 2221-2293, 2294-4761, 4762-5023, 5024-5762, 5763-6019, 6020-6104, 6105-6238, 6237-11091, and 11092-11247 of SEQ ID NO: 13.